

FY 2014
Oregon NRCS WRP Ranking Worksheet

Project Name _____	Ranking Score _____
Owner _____	County _____
Date of Field Evaluation _____	Total Offered Acres _____
Ranking Team: NRCS _____	FWS _____
ODFW _____	SWCD _____
Other(s) _____	

Screening Question

Is the application within the Southern Oregon North Eastern California (SONEC), Willamette Valley Synthesis Area, or Approved Wetland Restoration Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) area?	Yes	No
Yes, High or Medium Priority and rank application		
No, Low Priority and defer ranking		

Summary of Ranking Score

Ranking Factor	Maximum Points	Points Received
I. Environmental Benefits	110	
II. Economic Considerations	50	
III. Special Considerations	25	
Total Points	185	

I. Environmental Benefits

A. Original Hydrology Restoration

I.A1. Degree of Hydrologic Alteration (Present Condition) Use CWD or wetland inventory (with input from Resource Soil Scientist or Wetlands Specialist) to estimate the degree of departure from original hydrology. Choose the category representing the majority of the eligible wetland acres that will be restored.	30 points max
Original wetland hydrology significantly degraded or modified; for example, hydrology is completely drained or diverted off-site through ditches, tiles, or diversions, etc..	30 points
Original wetland hydrology moderately degraded or modified; or original wetland hydrology previously restored; for example, ditches, tiles, or diversions present however hydrology is still present due to failing infrastructure or natural conditions	15 points
Original wetland hydrology relatively unmodified; for example, wetlands farmed under natural conditions.	5 points
I.A2. Extent of Hydrology Restoration (Expected Future Condition) What percentage of the <u>total Eligible Lands</u> (for these points do not include <u>Other Eligible Lands</u>) acres will be returned to original hydrology? To receive points, the planned hydrologic restoration must provide conditions suitable for the needs of native wetland dependent wildlife species that occurred prior to manipulation.	25 points max
>75%	25 points

50-75%	10 points
35-50%	5 points
<35%	0 points

B. Wetland Functions and Values	
I.B1. Habitat for At-Risk Species	15 points max
a) Will the project provide habitat and address limiting needs for State or Federally listed Threatened, Endangered, or candidate species? WRPO must incorporate the habitat needs of these species if credit claimed. List species or attach documentation:	15 points
b) Will the project provide habitat and address limiting needs for a State Sensitive Species (see ODFW list). WRPO must incorporate the habitat needs of these species if credit claimed. List species or attach documentation:	5 points
I.B2. Floodwater Attenuation	10 points max
Is the project located within the 100-year floodplain (and not protected by levee/dike that is within a diking district or would not be able to be reconnected to floodplain)? Yes	10 points
No	0 points
I.B3. Habitat Connectivity Proximity of offered acres to an existing protected area, such as, WRP or similar easement of similar duration. USFWS refuges, State, or locally managed wildlife areas with similar management goals would also be applicable. List the protected area(s):	15 points max
Adjacent	15 points
Within 1 mile	8 points
Between 1 to 5 miles	2 points
I.B5. Likelihood of Successful Restoration The likelihood the site will retain its habitat functions and values after the enrollment and initial restoration period ends with minimal management. High likelihood of successful restoration with minimal management required in the long term management plan.	15 points max
Offered area has no invasive species and has no adjacent problems areas	8 points
Invasive species predominantly in landscape adjacent but not present	2 points
Intermediate issue but still resolvable/restorable	5 points
Invasive species are greater than 25% total vegetation areal cover on offered WRP site.	0 points

Subtotal for Environmental Benefits: _____

II. Economic Considerations	
A. Easement Cost per Acre	
II.A1. Easement Cost per Acre Not applicable for cost-share agreements. Subtract landowner easement donation or partner contribution; attach supporting documentation. When there are multiple per acres values; use the weighted average.	10 points max (20 with bonus)
Less than \$1500/acre	10 points
\$1501 - \$2500/acre	8 points
\$2501 - \$3500/acre	4 points
More than \$3501/acre	0 points
Bonus: Landowner's written decision to accept at least 15% less than GARC value.	10 points

B. Estimated Restoration Cost	
Total Restoration Cost \$	Partner Restoration Contribution \$
	NRCS Cost \$
II.B1. NRCS Restoration Cost per Acre The total estimated restoration cost that will be borne by NRCS. The preliminary restoration plan is the supporting documentation.	10 points max
Less than \$500/acre	10 points
\$501-\$1200/acre	5 points
More than \$1201/acre	0 points
II.B2. Pledged Partnership Contributions Percentage of the total easement acquisition or restoration cost that will be provided as financial contribution. This does not include the required 25% landowner contribution for cost-share agreements and 30-year easements.	10 points max
50% or greater	10 points
25-49%	8 points
10-24%	6 points
1-9%	4 points
<i>The pledged funds must be in NRCS financial control to receive favorable ranking consideration.</i>	

C. Restoration Cost-Benefit Comparison	
II.C1. Cost per Environmental Benefit Ratio NRCS Restoration Cost per Acre / Environmental Benefits Points = Cost-Benefit Ratio	10 points max
≤ 5 (with minimum EB points ≥ 50)	10 points
5-12 (with minimum EB points ≥ 50)	6 points
>12 or EB points <50	0 points

D. Operation and Maintenance	
II.D1. Operation & Maintenance Cost The cost of O&M and management needed to keep conservation practices (structural or vegetative) functioning for the intended purpose; prevent deterioration, repair damage, or replacement if the practice fails.	10 points max

Minimal. Restoration designed to minimize O&M and management costs; practices have low replacement cost, easy access, and/or have infrequent maintenance expected. ▪ Examples: tile breaks, ditch plug or fill, low berm w/o structures, plantings, water control structures without seasonally required manipulation, and infrequent vegetation management (spraying, burning, disking, mowing, reseeding, etc.) every 5-10 years.	10 points
Moderate. Anticipated O&M is in-line with NRCS practice standards and specifications; often having an increased requirement during the establishment period, then periodic O&M and management thereafter. ▪ Examples: water control structures with two manipulations per year, structures needing minor repair or cleared of debris after flood events, annual spot treatment of invasive weeds, vegetation management (spraying, burning, disking, mowing, reseeding, etc.) every 3-5 years.	5 points
High. On or off-site conditions warrant additional O&M (i.e. flood prone, erosion/siltation, continual noxious weed re-infestation). May include practices that are short-lived or that O&M and management is normal but difficult/costly to access. Frequent vegetation management (spraying, burning, disking, mowing, reseeding, etc.) on less than a 2 year cycle.	0 points

Subtotal for Economic Considerations: _____

III. Special Considerations	
III.A. Priority Geographic Regions	10 points max
Project located in the following areas (see approved maps): 1) Waterbird Habitat Conservation Areas in SONEC region, OR 2) Willamette Valley Synthesis Area in Willamette Valley	10 points
Project occurs within a Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) where <i>wetlands</i> (also includes wet prairie, riparian, aquatic, and estuary) are listed as a “key habitat”; as identified in ODFW’s Oregon Conservation Strategy or within an area with an approved wetlands restoration CIS	5 points
III.B. Permanence of Restored Habitat	10 points max
Permanent Easement	10 points
30-year Easement, 30-year Contract or Restoration Cost-Share Agreement <i>with high likelihood</i> the site will retain its habitat functions and values after the enrollment period ends. <i>Provide justification:</i>	5 points
III.C. Project Size	5 points max
Greater than 321 acres	5 points
161-320 acres	3 points
40-160 acres	2 points
Less than 40 acres	1 point

Subtotal for Special Considerations: _____